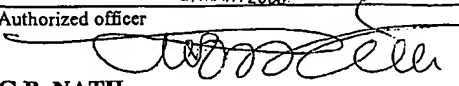


INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01529

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : A47B 13/08		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC(7): A47B 13/08		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
US CLASS MARKS: 108/27		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
DWPI: IPC class marks as above + Keywords (Guard or Barrier or shield or Vertical)		
IFIPAT: US Class mark as above		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 364766B (STEINHILBER), 25 April 1990 Figures	1-14
A	WO 97/32503A (HAYMAN-CHAFFEY), 12 September 1997 Figures	1-14
X	US5733022A (WHETSTONE), 31 March 1998 Figures	1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 March 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 11 MARCH 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  G.B. NATH Telephone No : (02) 6283 2126

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01529

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Independent Claims 1 and 14 relate to a demountable safety guard adapted for prevention (and a method for the prevention of) a accidental urged dislodgement of an article or liquid over an edge of a fixed horizontal surface. It is considered that a safety guard adapted to do so comprises a first "special technical feature".

Continued on a supplemental sheet.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:1-14

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01529

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: II

2. Independent Claims 15 and 16 relate to a method of (and claim 19 to an apparatus for) providing a safety guard member for the edge of a fixed horizontal surface wherein the guard member is inserted into a slot or is retained in an extruded channel which is considered to comprise a second "special technical feature.
3. Independent Claim 17 relates to a method of providing a safety guard member for the edge of a fixed horizontal surface wherein said guard member is attached along the edge by hinge elements.
4. Independent Claim 23 relates to a guard device comprised of two and only two components.

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is providing a safety guard. However this common feature is generic in the art.. Therefore these claims also lack unity a posteriori.

Besides, the group of claims (1 and 14) and Claims (15,16, 19) are not novel in the light of EP 364766B(Steinhilber) or US 5733022A (Whetstone) a posteriori. Claim group 23 also lacks novelty in the light of common general knowledge in the relevant art.

[Note: Claim 23 in our opinion is too broad and indeterminate as to make a meaningful search of its scope.]

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU02/01529

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member	
EP	364766	DE	3635573	US	4986193
WO	97/32503	JP	9238756		
US	5733022		NONE		END OF ANNEX